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NI *et al.*
Appl. No. 09/448,868**Remarks**

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 84-97, 100-113, 116-131, 134-149, 152-171, 174-187, 190-205, 208-229, and 232-248 are pending in the application, with 84, 101, 117, 135, 153, 156, 159, 175, 191, 209, 212 and 215 being the independent claims. Claims 98, 99, 114, 115, 132, 133, 150, 151, 172, 173, 188, 189, 206, 207, 230, and 231 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These claims are being canceled solely to advance prosecution, and not in acquiescence to any rejections of record. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in related applications.

Claims 234-237, 239-242, and 244-247 have been amended to correct and inadvertent clerical error. These amendments are not believed to narrow the scope of the affected claims.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all currently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite

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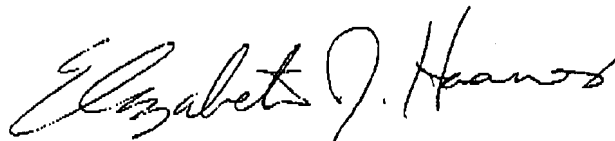
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prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appl. No. 09/448,868Version with markings to show changes made*The claims are amended as follows:*

Claims 98, 99, 114, 115, 132, 133, 150, 151, 172, 173, 188, 189, 206, 207, 230, and 231 are cancelled.

Claims 234-237 are amended as follows:

234. (Once Amended) The antibody or fragment thereof of claim 233, that specifically binds [protein] the polypeptide of (a).

235. (Once Amended) The antibody or fragment thereof of claim 233, that specifically binds [protein] the polypeptide of (b).

236. (Once Amended) The antibody or fragment thereof of claim 233, that specifically binds [protein] the polypeptide of (c).

237. (Once Amended) The antibody or fragment thereof of claim 234, that specifically binds [protein] the polypeptide of (b).

Claims 239-242 are amended as follows:

239. (Once Amended) The antibody or fragment thereof of claim 238, that specifically binds [protein] the polypeptide of (a).

240. (Once Amended) The antibody or fragment thereof of claim 238, that specifically binds [protein] the polypeptide of (b).

241. (Once Amended) The antibody or fragment thereof of claim 238, that specifically binds [protein] the polypeptide of (c).

242. (Once Amended) The antibody or fragment thereof of claim 239, that specifically binds [protein] the polypeptide of (b).

Claims 244-247 are amended as follows:

244. (Once Amended) The antibody or fragment thereof of claim 243, that specifically binds [protein] the polypeptide of (a).

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245. (Once Amended) The antibody or fragment thereof of claim 243, that specifically binds [protein] the polypeptide of (b).

246. (Once Amended) The antibody or fragment thereof of claim 243, that specifically binds [protein] the polypeptide of (c).

247. (Once Amended) The antibody or fragment thereof of claim 244, that specifically binds [protein] the polypeptide of (b).

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